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## AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH TEACHER AND LEARNER TALK IN THE CLASSROOM INTERACTION

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### ABSTRACT

The objectives of the research were to find out the kinds of teacher talk and learner talk used by English teacher and learners during the classroom interaction and to know the language mostly used in the classroom. The participants of this study were 35 students and 1 English teacher that were taken using purposive sampling technique. This descriptive study used recording and interview in collecting the data. The results of classroom interaction recording was then analyzed using Flander's Interaction Analysis Categories (FIAC). It was obtained that teacher talk (75,5%) dominated the interaction during the classroom. In the interaction, the teacher mostly used ask question category (30,2%) meanwhile the learners mostly used pupil talk response category (9,1%). Furthermore, Indonesian language (57,2%) was dominantly used, while English was only 28,1%. From the research result, it can be concluded that the English teacher dominated the class by asking so many questions and mostly used Indonesian language during the classroom was taking place. It gave the students less chance to explore and practice their English.

*Keyword: teacher talk, learner talk, classroom interaction.*

### INTRODUCTION

Harmer (2007:56) describes that there are three phases of successful language learning which is well known as ESA phases; Engage (E), Study (S), and Activate (A). Engage becomes the first important key before encouraging the students to study and practice. It is necessary to engage the students in order to get them interested in the subject. Therefore, good interaction between teacher and students will help the teachers to create good rapport). Teacher-students interaction supports and motivates students to achieve a higher cognitive level and to find a

personal meaning for learning (Dempsey, Halton, & Murphy, 2001). In addition, Sundari (2017) through her qualitative research entitled classroom interaction in TEFL at Lower secondary Schools in Indonesia described that mostly classroom interaction should be initiated by teachers through verbal communication by combining first and target language, giving direction, asking questions, correcting the students' errors and many more. Verbal and non verbal dimension, pedagogical, and personal dimensions arise the head to control and manage the classroom and to build rapport between teacher and students.

Interaction is one essential point of prosperous in teaching learning process, because interaction is a united exchange of thought, feeling or ideas between a teacher and learner or a learner and other learner consequent in complementary effect on each other. Thus, Brock (in Shomoosi, 2008:177) states that an increase in the amount of classroom interaction will help foreign language learner to learn the target language easily and quickly. In this case, teaching process indeed gives a opportunity for learners to ask, to guess, to think and even to talk about the course material orderly to create an interaction between students. In the classroom interaction, it contain all of the classroom events, both verbal and non verbal interaction, the verbal interaction transpired because of the teacher and learners talk, while non verbal interaction covered gestures or facial expression by the teacher and learners when they communicate without using words (Sukarmi & Ulfah, 2015:262).

From the statements above, the two kinds of talk are important, they prevail the classroom events and affect students' foreign language acquisition, learners learn not only straight comprehensible input but also their own output (Sukarmi & Ulfah, 2015:262). But a proper lesson was not one in which students do all or even most of the talking. Some lesson may propered if they were carefully organized in such away that students did a good arrangement of talking and at the same time got a lot of feedback from the teacher, either formally and informally.

Classroom interaction was basically related to teaching style that determines interaction in the classroom. The teachers who apply teacher-centered in the classroom possibly make the students passive in the classroom since the teacher talks all the time. It simply meant that the teachers did not give chance to the students to talk. In contrast, students-centered indirectly made the students active since the teacher was as a facilitator. So, it was clear that to get better result on teaching English especially in Senior High School had to be developed by improving the quality of the teacher and learner talk because they would govern the classroom behavior. Moreover, while the teaching-learning occurs, interaction was foremost it, avoid the blank moment during teaching learning process, both

teacher and learners there must be interaction, both of them should be active in the classroom.

The importance of verbal interaction in language classroom made some researchers were interested in analyzing some kinds of teacher talks that occurred during the classroom was taking place with many foreign language interaction analysis models. Some of those models are Foreign Language Interaction (FLINT), Flanders' Interaction Categories (FIAC), Self-Evaluation Teacher Talk (SETT). Pangesti (2016:34) conducted an analysis of teacher talk in English teaching and learning process using FLINT models. It was found that there were 9 out of 11 categories of teacher talks occurred in the class. They were praising, making jokes, using the students' ideas, repeating the students' responses, asking question, giving information, correcting without rejection, giving directions, and criticizing students' behaviour. Wasi'ah (2016:78) that conducted a descriptive study on analysing teacher talk using SETT found that teacher performed 11 out of 14 instructional features in classroom interaction; scaffolding, direct repair, content feedback, extended wait time, seeking clarification, confirmation checks, teacher echo, teacher interruption, extended teacher turn, extended learner turn and display question.

The other guidelines to analyze the interaction activities is by using Flanders' Interaction Analysis Categories FIAC. Amatari (2015:44) states there are three categories in FIAC, they are: teacher talk, pupil talk and silence or confusion. Teacher talk includes accept feeling, praises, accept/ uses ideas of pupil, ask question, lecturing, giving direction and criticizing, student talk includes pupil talk response, pupil talk initiation and no/all talk is the situation which is in silence. Sukarmi and Ulfah (2015:90) who conducted the classroom interaction analysis using this model obtained that the percentage of the teacher talk was 78.15%, whereas the students' participation was 21.16%.

In line with the studies above, this present study was also dealing with analysing the student and the teacher talk in English classroom interaction through FIAC. Not only finding the dominant categories of teacher and learner talk, this study also investigated the language that mostly used in the classroom. As Setiawati (2012:78) stated that teacher talk serves as the most valuable input of language exposure due to the circumstance in Indonesia that does not support students' to use target language in daily conversation. So it is very expected that teacher used English more frequently in the classroom to become comprehensible input for students.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### ***Classroom Interaction***

Yanfen and Yuqin (2010:67) defines interaction as the collaborative exchange of thoughts, feelings or ideas between two or more people. It has an important role in English language teaching. Through interaction with teachers, students can increase their language store and use the language they possess. Amatori (2015:45) points out that the quality and quantity of teacher-student interaction is a critical dimension of effective classroom teaching. The term 'interaction' implies an action – reaction or a mutual or reciprocal influence which may be between individuals, e.g. pupil – pupil; teacher-pupil in classroom setting or between materials and individuals or groups. An interaction is usually inferred from the behaviour of persons in the environment being studied. This behaviour may be verbal or non-verbal and can be classified as being predominantly cognitive, affective or controlling in nature.

The success of teaching depends to a large extent on the way of teacher talk and the interaction occurs between teacher and students. The happening of interaction is affected directly by the way teacher talk. Classroom interaction is really needed to maintain communication to happen in the classroom. Ellis (1984:78) points out that interaction is meaning-focused and carried out to facilitate the information exchange and avoid the breakdowns of communication. So it is very suggested that teachers should pay attention to their language in the process of interaction with students, so as to provoke more interactions in the classroom.

### ***Teacher and Learner Talk***

Talk can be defined as an instrument to change attitudes and produce decisions and actions. Talk also can be defined as means of learning, transferring meaning, tool of reflection and making sense, and also social purpose.. In terms of classroom environment, teacher and learner talk can be defined as the language used by the teacher and learners to interact with in classroom interaction.

Sinclair and Brazil (in Yanfen and Yuqin, 2010:56) explain that teacher talk is the language in the classroom that takes up a major portion of class time employed to give directions, explain activities and check students' understanding. Nunan (2000:23) describes that in all types of classrooms. Teacher talk is important, and it has been extensively researched and documented. In language classroom, it is particularly important because the medium is message. The modifications which teachers make to their language, the question they ask, the feedback they provide and the types of instruction and explanations they provide

can all have an important bearing, not only on the effective management of the classroom, but also the on the acquisition by the learners of the target language.

Lei (2009:67) explains that teacher talk in EFL classroom was considered to be problematic are for language teachers. In one side, too much teacher talk will deprive students' opportunity to speak in the classroom. But in another side, teacher talk can be effectively facilitate learning and promote communicative interaction in the classroom.

However, Nunan (2000:90) suggests that when determining the appropriateness or otherwise of the quantity of teacher talk, then, we need to take into account a variety of factors including: (1) the point in the lesson in which the talking occurs, (2) what prompts the teacher talk: whether it is spontaneous or planned, (3) the value of the talk as potentially useful input for acquisition.

### ***Flanders Interaction Analysis Categories (FIAC)***

Inamullah, Uddin, and Husain (2008:34) tells that Flanders Interaction (FIAC) is one of analytical observation schemes that became a widely used coding system to analyze and improve teaching skills. In addition, Amatari (2015:98) points out that Flanders Interaction Analysis is a system of classroom interaction analysis which is concerned with verbal behaviour only, primarily because it can be observed with higher reliability than can non-verbal behaviour and more also, the assumption made that the verbal behaviour of an individual is an adequate sample of his total behaviour. Flanders Interaction Analysis Categories (FIAC) is a Ten Category System of communication which are said to be inclusive of all communication possibilities. There are seven categories used when the teacher is talking (Teacher talk) and two when the pupil is talking (Pupil talk) and tenth category is that of silence or confusion.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In conducting this study the researchers applied descriptive method. Descriptive method means that the researcher describes which is described and interpretesthe phenomenon or condition (Creswell, 2012:13). This study took place in SMA Negeri 5 OKU. Purposive sampling wasused to determine the participants of the study. On the basis of school's recomendation, Irma Purwati, S.Pd and students in XI IPA 2 would participated in the study.

In collecting the data, *classroom observation and interview* were employed in the study.Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2007:396) explain that observation as a research process is that it offers an investigator the opportunity to gather data from naturally occurring social situations. The observation in this study was conducted twice and last took eighty to ninety five minutes, The researchers directly observed the classroom. In the meantime, audio/ video recording of the

whole proceeding was also made to acquire more complete data about the classroom process. Steps of this research procedure were: (1) recording and observing all of the classroom activities, (2) making a transcript of recording in every minutes lecturing, (3) determining the early data from field notes & transcript, (4) categorizing the data, (5) determining the focus of data categorization, (6) strengthening the focus of data categorization, (7) formulating flanders theory by using tables, (8) making a count of the numbers of language used by using table.

The data in this research were in the form of utterances taken from the data resources (field notes & transcription) then were analyzed using FIAC system and calculated into the numbers and percentage analysis.

Furthermore, In this research, the researchers used guided interview to give some questions to collect more supplementary data about teacher and learner talk in the classroom interaction. Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2007:349) state that the interview is a flexible tool for data collection, enabling multi-sensory channels to use: verbal, non-verbal, spoken and heard. The order of the interview may be controlled while still giving space for spontaneity, and the interviewer could pressed not only for complete answers but also for responses about complex and deep issues. In short, the interview was a powerful implement for researchers. The questions were administered in Bahasa Indonesia, because it made the interview more easily both for the teacher and the students.

## FINDING

The classroom interaction was observed in 80 minutes length for only one meeting because of the school limitation. The observed behavior was translated into the descriptive codes. Its printed out was enclosed in appendix. The data was Analysis resulted in a table of calculating data on classroom interaction, the table was calculated from every utterances of teacher and learner that occurred in the classroom. Table 1 showed the result of FIAC calculation after the classroom interaction was transcribed.

**Table 1** The Result of FIAC Calculation

CATEGORIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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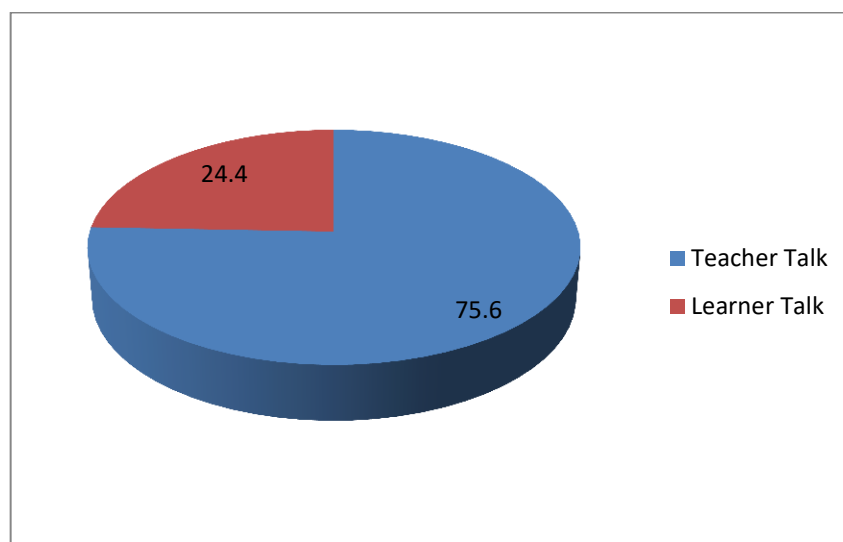
**Note:**

1. *Accepts feeling*
2. *Praises or encourages*
3. *Accepts or uses ideas of pupil*
4. *Asks question*
5. *Lecturing*
6. *Giving Direction*
7. *Criticizing*
8. *Pupil talk response*
9. *Pupil talk initiation*
10. *Silence or confusion*

From the result of transcription of the recording during the classroom observation, it was obtained that there were 413 utterances of teacher talk and 134 utterances of learner talks. These result then analyzed calculated usingFIAC. The result of percentage based on the data result of classroom observation was shown in table 2

**Table 2** The Distribution of Classroom Observation using FIAC

No	Observation Categories	Numbers	%
<b>Teacher' Talks</b>			
1	Accept feeling	1	0,2%
2	Praises or encourages	18	3,4 %
3	Accepts or uses ideas of pupil	3	0,5 %
4	Asks questions	165	30,4 %
5	Lecturing	146	26,7 %
6	Giving directions	69	12,6 %
7	Criticizing	11	2,0 %
<b>Total</b>			<b>75,6 %</b>
<b>Learners' talk</b>			
8	Pupil talk response	50	9,1 %
9	Pupil talk initiation	4	0,7 %
10	Silance or confusion	80	14,6 %
<b>Total</b>			<b>24,4%</b>



**Diagram 1.** The Percentage Result of Teacher and Learner Talks



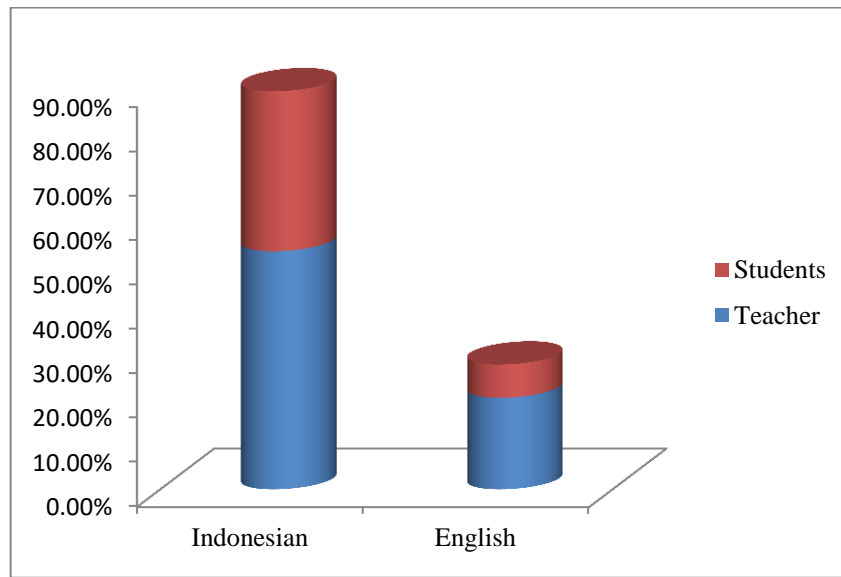
From the overall result of observation displayed in the research found that the most time-spend of teacher and student talk in the classroom interaction was the teacher talk which occupied 75,5% of time, whereas the learner talk occupied 9,8 %. The rest 14,6 % of the time was that of silence, confusion or unclassified talk. It can also be seen that from the whole time of teacher talk, it was mostly spent for asking questions, lecturing and giving directions, while most of students talk was for giving responses.

The result of study showed that the teacher talk was 75,5 %, students talk was 9,8 %, and silent was 14,6 % of the time. Only a small part of the student talk shows initiation related to the learning materials. Instead, they talked a lot when they gave responses to that teacher's lecture or questions. The teacher was more direct in her teaching. It can be seen from the ratio between direct and indirect influence, the result is less than one. It meant the teacher give lessons (lecturing) and direction during the teaching learning process. The teacher attempts to make her student being more active in the class by giving them chance to ask when the teacher was lecturing.

Furthermore, the result of classroom observation found 154 utterances of using the English and 313 utterances of using the Indonesian or local language. This tables on show the percentages of the language use based on research founding on classroom observation.

**Table 3** The Distribution of Language Use based on the Classroom Observation

Language	Speakers	Observation	
		Numbers	%
English	Teacher	113	20,6 %
	Students	41	7,5 %
	<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>28,1 %</b>
Indonesian	Teacher	293	53,6 %
	Students	20	3,6 %
	<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>57,2 %</b>



**Diagram 2.** Percentage Analysis of Language Use

From the table 3, we could see the English teacher often used Indonesian or local language than English. The teacher used Indonesian or local language about 53,6 %, and English used only about 20,6 %. Meanwhile, students often used English than Indonesian or local language, the students used English about 7.5 %, and the Indonesian only about 3,6 %.

## DISCUSSION

The finding of this study was in line with Sukarmi and Ulfah (2015:23) who found that the teacher talk' percentage in the classroom was 78. 15% with dominant categories were lecturing (921.63%) and giving direction (20%). Almost similar with Sukarmi and Ulfah's, this result was seen as less effective teaching and learning process seen the dominant categories were asking questions (30.4%) and lecturing (26.7%). Negative effects of teacher talking for an excessive amount of time have been observed in a number of studies. Alwright (in Davies 2011:98) claimed that teacher who works too much in the classroom were not teaching effectively. A good language teacher should be able to get the students to do more works in the classroom. Hammer (2007:76) also described that Student Talking Time (STT) should be more frequently than Teacher Talking Time (TTT). It is because the greater amount of TTT, the less the students practice the target language. Teachers and learners are together contributing source in managing the classroom interaction and at the same time managing the learning opportunities. The teacher as facilitator should focus on the principle of intrinsic motivation by

allowing the students to discover language through using it rather than telling them about language (Choudhury, 2005:65).

The frequent use of L1 that was obtained from this study showed that the teacher did not optimize the use of English in her classroom which can reduce the exposure of the target language. Ellis (1984:45) states that too much L1 use could deprive the learners of valuable input in the L2. Although some related studies results inferred that learners' L1 has a necessary and facilitating role in acquiring a foreign language under certain conditions (Cinkara and Galali, 2017:56). Harmer (2007:89) explains that the teachers should be aware of monitoring the appropriate use of first language in English classroom, so that it can optimize the target language learning.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result of this research, it can be concluded the teacher dominated the class. The teacher was more active while the students were less active. The student talking time was used largely for responding to the teacher's questions and lecture. The teacher used direct influence more in teaching her student than indirect influence; lecturing and giving direction to the students for teaching learning process. In addition, the language in classroom used by the teacher and the students in the classroom interaction did not balance between Indonesian and English. It showed that the teacher used more Indonesian than English when she explained the materials.

Referring to those, it is suggested that the teacher should optimize the interaction to make the classroom more dynamic and not monotonous. The teacher were recommended to develop and improve their basic ability in managing their talk and technique in giving the appropriate questions and good feedbacks for the students in English class. So it can be expected that with all the type of the talk, the interaction between the teacher and the students will be built and increase. The teacher must be a good facilitator and motivator to the students in learning English. In addition, regarding to the use of language in the classroom, it is recommended that the teacher should use English more frequently in order to make students feel the atmosphere of English language and they can get the chance to exposure the target language they are learning.

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